

Welcome

"BLESSED LIFE"
FEBRUARY 16, 2025



ST. JOHN'S
Lutheran Church
Grounded • Growing • Branching

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It is an honor to have you worshiping with us this morning and we pray that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness!

At St. John's we are pleased to offer two styles of worship services on Sunday morning. In our 8:30 a.m. traditional service, we offer familiar hymns and rich, traditional worship forms in a meaningful and inspirational setting. Our 11:00 a.m. contemporary service includes the same message as our 8:30 a.m. service, but in an informal style, enhanced with contemporary music. We encourage you to try both worship styles! Thank you for worshiping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

(If you need assistance or need a hearing aid device, please see one of the ushers.)

The Lord's Supper

Though we are eager for all to participate fully in the Lord's Supper, we do not want to compromise any portion of God's Word among us. Because Scripture states that the Lord's Supper can be taken to one's spiritual harm if not properly understood, we ask all visitors to refer to the following statement of belief regarding the Lord's Supper before communing:

I am truly sorry for the sin in my life. I am struggling to die to my sin and to live in faith in Jesus. I am looking to Jesus to empower me to stop my sinning and to live a new life in Him. I believe when I receive the bread, I am receiving the true body of Christ, and when I receive the wine, I am receiving the true blood of Jesus. I believe that when I receive His true body and blood my sins are forgiven, I am given power over sin, death and the devil, and the gift of eternal life. My faith is completely in the words of Jesus.

The Lord's Supper offers the two-fold gift of forgiveness and peace with God on the one hand, and unity and oneness among those who commune together on the other hand (Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17). Those who receive the body and the blood of the Lord do so in terms of their relationship with God as well as with their fellow-communicants. Therefore, all baptized believers who understand and agree with the above Lutheran teaching of the Lord's Supper are welcome to attend. As always, we encourage you to speak with Pastor Adam or Pastor Aaron with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Disabled – The pastor and lay minister will gladly commune anyone unable to come to the communion rail. Let the pastor or an usher know before the service begins.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 9, 2025

8:30 a.m.

Our Vision: Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, Branching to Others

Pre-Service Music And A Time For Prayer

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It truly is an honor to have you worshiping with us this morning and it is our prayer that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness! Thank you for worshiping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG

All Depends on Our Possessing (Vv. 1-5)

LSB 732

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES *1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 20; Luke 6:23*

L: I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried,

C: and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

L: In fact, Christ has been raised from the dead,

C: the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

L: Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,

C: for behold, your reward is great in heaven.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Relying on the grace of God and anticipating the joys of heaven He has prepared for Jesus' sake, let us confess our sins to our gracious

God. Heavenly Father,

C: You have blessed us like trees planted by streams of water, yet we have failed to bear fruit for You and have been burdened by fear when life becomes difficult. We have not relied on Your resurrection as proof Your grace, and have not always lived in the hope of our own resurrection. We have failed to keep our faith active in the face of the difficulties of life, and in the face of opposition from other people. Forgive us, O Lord, and renew a strong faith within us. Amen.

L: By the grace of God, you are like trees planted by streams of water! Grace is abundant daily in God's Word and by His promises. For the sake of our living Lord, rejoice and be glad! As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

SALUTATION

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Old Testament

Jeremiah 17:5-8

⁵ Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. ⁶ He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷ "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸ He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." (ESV)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it.² It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.⁹ For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.¹⁰ But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.¹¹ So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed.¹² But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead?¹³ For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either.¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless.¹⁵ And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead.¹⁶ And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised.¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost!¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.²⁰ But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. (NLT)

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung)

¹⁷ And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. ²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. ²² "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. ²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶ "Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

"Blessed Life"

Luke 6:17-26

Pastor Adam Ray

NICENE CREED

OFFERING

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at
www.stjohnsdecatour.com/giving*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "Lord, in Your mercy."

People respond with: "hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

PREFACE (*responses sung*)

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (*sung*)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

AGNUS DEI (*sung*)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

What Is This Bread

LSB 629

The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

LSB 580

Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

LSB 625

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

On What Has Now Been Sown

LSB 921

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

OPENING SONGS

*There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do
Living Hope*

WELCOME & GREETING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

O The Deep Deep Love of Jesus

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:17-26

SERMON

"Blessed Life"

Isaiah 6:1-8

Pastor Adam Ray

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

This Is Amazing Grace

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader	Scott Tavarczyk
Lay Minister	8:30 – Larry Westbrook 11:00 – Mike Baggett
Organist	Sharon Cripe
Ushers	8:30 – Brady Fawcett 11:00 – Tom Schollenbruch
Computer	8:30 – Mike Patzwitz 11:00 – Ava Saurmann
Live Stream	8:30 – Eric Brown
Camera	8:30 – Eric Brown
Sound	8:30 – Brandon Patzwitz 11:00 – Brandon Patzwitz
Vocals.....	Becky Dosien, Kristin Hesse, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar	Wendy Salefski
Piano.....	Ted Hesse

OUR MISSION We are restored to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. As a family of Christians, we are dedicated to the love and forgiveness of Christ as we reach out, preach and teach the truth of God’s Word to each other, our community and the world.

IN NEED OF PRAYER: If you would like to be added to the prayer list or the prayer chain, please contact the church office. Please call the prayer chain with an update of your prayer request.

IN THE MILITARY: Laura Byers, Bryon Chaney, Kimberly Chaney, Kristel Chaney, Travis Chaney, Dan Cheney, Tristin Comer, Randy Edwards, Caleb Goodson, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Goodson, Tyler Salefski

CONGREGATION NEWS

Ladies Friendship Circle soup luncheon has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 18. Different soups will be served, and you can sample as many as you want. After lunch, we will play bingo. Friends always are welcome. Anyone who is interested in making favors for homebound members of St. John's should come at 12:30.

Camp Linn Haven, Linville, North Carolina Mission Trip – April 28–May 3, 2025 – Informational Meeting to be held on Sunday, Feb. 23rd in the Lounge between services. We want to send a team to Camp Linn Haven to help with cleanup from the devastating hurricane, Helene. Come find out more.

Get ready to indulge in the vibrant flavors of New Orleans at our Taste of New Orleans and Dessert Auction – Sunday, March 23, 3p–6p. We are looking for brave souls who are willing to bring a New Orleans inspired dish to share to our next Youth Gathering fundraiser! Delicious options like jambalaya, gumbo, red beans & rice, bananas foster and more could be on display for people to taste...but we need your help! If you'd be willing to donate a dish to share, please contact the church office or Angela Cushing at aocushing@gmail.com.

Seeking Names: St. John's is seeking to call a Director of Faith Formation! As we begin this process, we are gathering names of potential candidates for the position. How can you help? 1) Review the job description (located on the back table) 2) Spread the word – share this news with family, friends, and any LCMS contacts! 3) Let us know of any possible candidates! Contact Rachel Tavarczyk (rtavarczyk@gmail.com) or Pastor Adam.

Unity High School Office Manager Position: If you or you know of someone who would be interested, please reach out to Brian Booth (bbooth@unitydecatour.com) with resume and letter of interest

Trinity Lutheran Church Secretary/Office Manager Position. If you would like more information on this position and an application, please contact the St. John's church office.

Unity Auction Team - Unity's largest fundraiser of the year will take place May 2, 2025, and we need your help! Unity is looking for people with event planning/fundraising experience, or just a passion for the school and willingness to help to join our 2025 Auction Team. Please get in touch with Brian Booth at bbooth@unitydecatour.org to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE: Join us for a celebration of Unity Christian School at our Country Boots & Christian Roots Dinner Auction on **May 2, 2025**. Get your cowboy boots & hat, or flannel shirt & jeans. This fun night is for parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors, teachers, coaches, pastors, alumni, everyone is welcome! Enjoy an evening of hors d'oeuvres, dinner, drinks, dessert & music, as well as silent & live auctions featuring exclusive items & experiences. More information, including ticket sales & childcare, will be available soon at unitydecatour.org/auction.

LSA ReSale Shop: Have you been spending your winter days purging and organizing? The LSA ReSale Shop would love to have your unwanted/no longer needed items. Drop-off times are: Monday & Tuesday 9-1 and Thursday 2-6. Mark your calendars for our semi-annual 10¢ sale on Thursday, March 13; with restocking on Friday & Saturday, March 14 & 15. Volunteers are needed for restocking. The shop will reopen on Monday, March 17 with all new spring & summer merchandise.

Last Week's Giving

Weekly Needed	\$12,403.85
General Fund	\$14,064.00
Online Giving.....	\$1,450.45
Total Giving.....	\$15,514.45

Last Week's Attendance

8:30 a.m.	131
11:00 a.m.....	56
Total.....	187

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts (FH)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

1:00 P.M. Ladies Friendship Circle (FH)
1:00 P.M. Staff Meeting
6:30 P.M. Parish Planning Meeting (FH)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

10:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study (FH)
6:30 P.M. Youth Hangout

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

5:30 P.M. TOPS (FH)
6:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 P.M. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

No church activities scheduled.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

No church activities scheduled.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
9:45 A.M. Education Hour
11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
12:30 P.M. Confirmation Class (FH)